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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/817,278	04/01/2004	Robert A. Alt	STL11379	2278
27365	7590	02/23/2006	EXAMINER	
SEAGATE TECHNOLOGY LLC C/O WESTMAN CHAMPLIN & KELLY, P.A. SUITE 1400 - INTERNATIONAL CENTRE 900 SECOND AVENUE SOUTH MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402-3319			TUPPER, ROBERT S	
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
		2652		
DATE MAILED: 02/23/2006				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/817,278	ALT ET AL.	
	Examiner Robert S. Tupper	Art Unit 2652	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 February 2006.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 7 and 12 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-5, 8-11, and 13-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 6 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ . |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ . | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ . |

1. Claims 7 and 12 remain withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made without traverse in the reply filed on 9/28/05.

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

3. Claims 1-5, 9-11, and 13-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being clearly anticipated by MUNNINGHOFF et al (6,600,625).

Note the embodiment of figure 6. MUNNINGHOFF et al shows a disk drive with a windage plates (648) supporting a head unload ramps (not numbered in figure 6). The edge of the windage plate can be tapered (see figures 3A and 3C).

4. Claims 1-5, 8-11, and 13-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being clearly anticipated by SEVERSON (6,549,365).

Note figures 1, 7, and 12. SEVERSON shows a disk drive with a windage plates (120) supporting a head unload ramps (156). The edge of the windage plate can be tapered (see figure 12).

5. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the

art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

6. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

7. Claim 20 is rejected under 35 USC 112, first and second paragraphs, as the claimed invention is not described in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to make and use the same, and/or for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention.

It is unclear what structure "non-continuous" describes. It seems to infer something like slots, recesses, etc located between the ends of the inner and outer circumferences.

Clearly there is no disclosure of such slots, recesses, etc.

These claims are inadequately disclosed under 112 par.1 if read literally to encompass configurations of the inner and outer circumferences that include slots, recesses, etc.

Alternatively, these claims are indefinite under 112 par.2 for failing to clearly define the structures involved.

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the

invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. Claim 20 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over MUNNINGHOFF et al (6,600,625) or SEVERSON (6,549,365).

Both MUNNINGHOFF et al and SEVERSON show disk drives with windage plates substantially as claimed.

Both differ in not showing the listed configuration for the inner and/or outer circumference.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize the listed configurations. The motivation is as follows: these would have been the obvious result of routine experimentation and optimization.

10. Claim 6 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

11. Applicant's arguments filed 2/8/06 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that MUNNINGHOFF et al does not show: (1) that the windage plate has an inner circumference that is in close proximity to the inner edge of the disk, (2) that the windage plate has an edge that extends between the inner circumference and the outer circumference, and (3) that the outer circumference of the plate has an outer circumference adjacent the shroud.

These are simply in error. See figure 6 of MUNNINGHOFF et al which clearly shows all of these configurations.

Applicant argues SEVERSON does not show: (1) that the windage plate has an inner circumference that is in close proximity to the inner edge of the disk, (2) that the windage plate has an edge that extends between the inner circumference and the outer circumference, and (3) that the outer circumference of the plate has an outer circumference adjacent the shroud.

These are simply in error. See figure 1 of SEVERSON which clearly shows all of these configurations.

Note applying both MUNNINGHOFF et al and SEVERSON, the recitation of "adjacent" has been read broadly to require only part of the outer periphery of the windage plate is somewhere near the shroud. The claims do not specifically recite that : a substantial portion of the outer periphery is located immediately at the shroud.

Note also that "circumference" is read broadly as the periphery of the plate. This is not read as requiring a circular shape.

12. THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the

shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Robert S. Tupper whose telephone number is 571-272-7581. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Fri, 6:30 AM - 4:00 PM (first Fri off).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hoa Nguyen can be reached on 571-272-7579. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Robert S Tupper
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2652